

Application Serial No. 10/578,964
Docket No. 1093-155 PCT/US
Response to December 13, 2007
Non-Final Office Action

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) An embossing station for an embossing apparatus which is provided for transferring a transfer layer of an embossing film on to an element to be embossed upon, in particular a flat element to be embossed upon which is stable in respect of shape, wherein the embossing station has two support rollers which are spaced from each other and which are in mutually axis-parallel relationship and at least one deflection roller spaced from the support rollers and in axis-parallel relationship with the support rollers, around which an embossing belt is deflected, wherein an embossing section of the embossing belt is determined by the support rollers, wherein provided between the two support rollers is a support body which supports the embossing belt and which has a sliding surface which is in the tangential plane connecting the two support rollers together.
2. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1, wherein the embossing belt has a low-friction layer at its inside which is towards the two support rollers and the support body.
3. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1, wherein a sliding belt passes around the two support rollers, the embossing belt being provided at the outside of the sliding belt, which is remote from the support rollers.
4. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 3, wherein the sliding belt has on a carrier a low-friction coating which is towards the two support rollers and the sliding surface of the support body.

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5. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 3, wherein the sliding belt can be tensioned around the two support rollers by means of a tensioning device.
6. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1, wherein the support body has a gas-permeable porous flat element by which the sliding surface is formed.
7. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 6, wherein the gas-permeable porous element closes a cavity which is provided in the support body and into which a compressed gas inlet opens.
8. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 6, wherein the gas-permeable porous flat element has a main surface which faces towards the embossing belt and two laterally mutually oppositely disposed side surfaces which are associated with the two mutually remote longitudinal edges of the embossing belt, wherein in operation of the embossing station a gas cushion is formed between the embossing belt and the gas-permeable porous surface element of the support body.
9. (Previously Presented) An embossing station as set forth in claim 7, wherein the support body and/or the compressed gas inlet are/is provided with a heating device.